A photograph of two men fishing from a small boat on a large body of water. The man on the left is shirtless, wearing a hat and camouflage shorts, and is leaning forward, focused on his fishing rod. The man on the right is wearing a dark t-shirt and a hat, and is also engaged with his fishing rod. The boat is filled with various fishing equipment, including rods and tackle boxes. The water is calm with some ripples, and the sky is clear.

# FISHING at LAKE KARIBA



A beautiful, large black bream is being handled by John Campbell's angler.  
The picture illustrates fishing along the lake.

**K**ARIBA Lake, the biggest man-made lake in the world, is an angler's paradise, easily accessible by road and air from the main cities of Rhodesia and New Zealand. The waterfront is no "anglers' song"; the abundance of fish, of many species, will amaze the visitor. Even the most inexperienced sportman returns to camp grinning from ear to ear, proudly holding up the "big one" that didn't get away! Catches weighing hundreds of pounds are not uncommon.

The most sought-after fish is the tiger. The latter include the large black bream (*Hoplias mossambicus*), the sweet-labid (or red-bellied) bream (*Hoplias microlepis*), the plankton-eating bream (*Hoplias maculatus*), and the green bream (*Serranus caeruleus*). One or two of the terrific fighting yellow breams (*Serranus chrysophekadion*) have also been caught in the lake; normally they are found above the Victoria Falls in the upper Zambezi, but they have somehow found their way down to Kariba, much to the delight of anglers.

Other species of fish to be found are the chessie, muture, barbels, *Cormilia jack*, and (in the swampy areas) the lung fish. There are also barbel, electric barbel (which give an unsuspecting angler a

severe electric shock), the giant cat-fish (known in Rhodesia as vandoos), saucers (an excellent first bait), yellow fin, Hun, jowh salmon—and, of course, catfish.

The recommended hook is for tiger fishing, as follows:

A fairly stout glass-fibre rod in the 6-ft. class range of the 96C, 54L, 60H, and 64H is recommended. (Phantom rod ideal for the purpose are the H60 and H70; cheap rods are likely to be smashed to rubble even by loose equipment, lighting fit).

A reel capable of carrying up to 200 yards of sylon line (or bocaine-strain of 25lb. to 30lb.), with a drag for alpining clutch is essential. The Penn 500 is ideal, followed by the Penn 140, 150, 175, 25 and 20.

hooks must be strong and sharp, preferably with a long shank to take a good swerf-fillet belt. The Almond O'Shaughnessy 1/0, 7/0 and 8/0 hooks fall into this category.

A wire trace of 27lb. breaking-strain and with size 1/0 black swivels, complete the equipment.

Tiger fish are predators. When the tiger strikes it turns itself into the air, shaking its head violently from side to side in an endeavour to throw the lure. His teeth, similar to a dog's eye teeth, can often be heard clamping on the spoon, causing deep gouges in the metal.

Cast off back page

Capacity: 130m. acre feet  
Length: 175 miles  
Max. width: 18 miles



A normal day's catch includes a variety of the following species after fly-fishing: carp, fish, mure, barbels, *Cormilia jack*, and several large varieties of giant cat-fish. The giant cat-fish (giant gourami) is also a favorite, especially when a special attractant for anglers.

This is the type of fishing rod used for game fishing in Kariba. In the background is Rodger May, former world champion set line. The line is used to take wild game to locate fish schools. Small monofilament mesh is frequently used when casting along the shores.



Nick May trolling with a spoon in Kariba. This is done when the water has over 100 ft. of depth, so it is important to be very careful when using this type of bait.



Famous Fishes  
of Lake Kariba

When a fish is hooked, the boat is usually stopped. The job, then, is to attract more fish: tiger normally swim in shoals, and, after the gymnastics of the first fish, the others become excited and interested. Thus, immediately after the first catch, the angler, discarding artificial lures, cuts into strips the chessa and n'kupe bait which has been caught, scaled and filleted in advance. The strips, about 5 inches long, are sewn on to hooks and are cast out and allowed to sink; and the boat is allowed to drift with the wind. The fillets are eagerly snatched up, and a fish is allowed to run off with the bait for about 20 yards. The angler then strikes hard: he is almost certain to hook his catch.

Reports have come to hand of a 50lb. tiger fish caught in the lake; the confirmed Rhodesian record is 34lb. 3 oz.

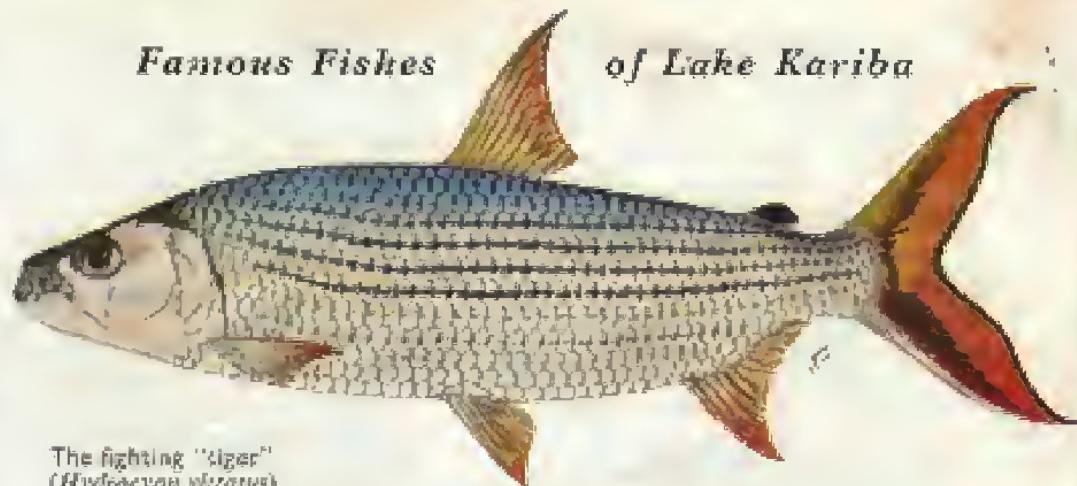
Vundu, barbel and electric barbel are caught by anglers fishing for tiger, as described above, on the same tackle. The vundu is the gamest of these fish and runs to a terrific weight: the largest recorded is 368lb.

Bream, chessa and n'kupe are taken on worms. The required and most suitable tackle is as follows:

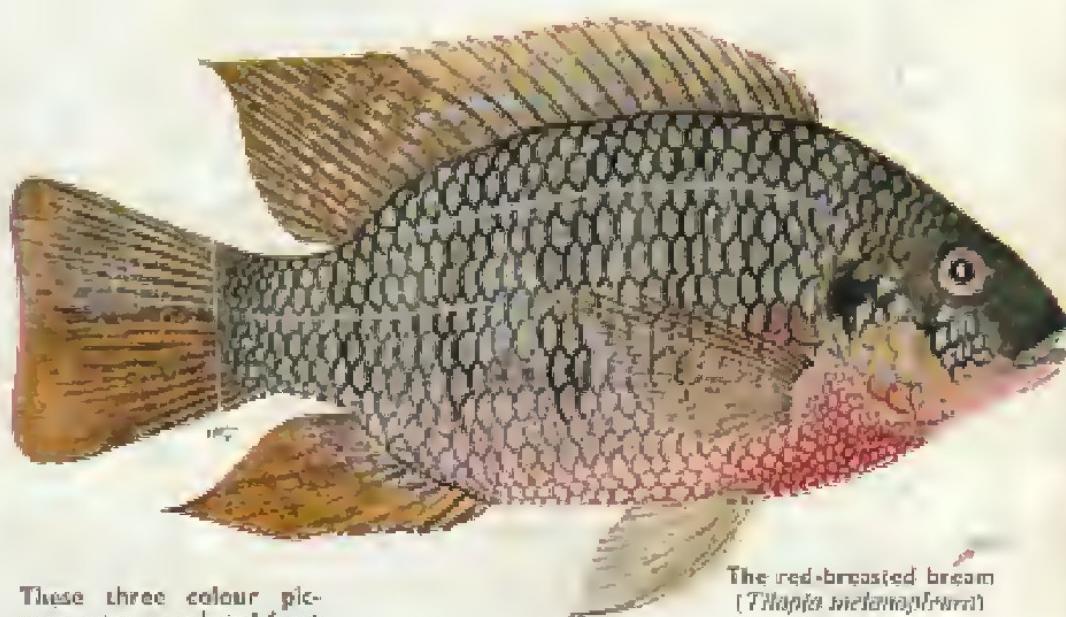
A 6 ft. spinning-rod, the best range being Phantom, and a good spinning reel, are recommended, and, in this class, the Mitchell reels are excellent (numbers 305 and 301 being first choice). Alternately, a short bait-casting rod, also in the Phantom range, and a small multiplying reel as produced by Record, are just as efficient. These reels should be filled with nylon line of a breaking-strain of 9lb. to 12lb. Recommended hooks are the Mustad series 92247 size 2.

The fish are found amongst the mopani trees in 10 to 15ft. of water, or in the shallows of the bush-clearings in the semi-submerged grass. The angler has no need to cast his bait of earthworms, as the fish can be caught by dropping the bait over the side of the boat and allowing it to run to the bottom. The bites are felt as short tugs, and a strong pull is necessary for a strike. The bream are a magnificent table fish, the others being rather bony although excellent fighters.

**NOTE:** Central African Airways recently inaugurated "all-in" fishing week-ends at Kariba, including air fare from Salisbury, at the extraordinarily low price of £20 6s.



The fighting "tiger"  
(*Hydrocynus vittatus*)



The red-breasted bream  
(*Tilapia melanopterus*)

These three colour pictures are reproduced from a recently published book *Freshwater Fishes* (Stuart Manning, Bulawayo) by Rex A. Jubb, the most authoritative book on the fishes of Rhodesia. The colour illustrations are the work of the author's wife, Hilda Jubb.



The Hunyani salmon  
(*Labeo altirellis*)